

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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UNCLAS STATE 038776 TOSEC 020136

FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: EVENING NEWS SUMMARY (TRAVELING PRESS) - 2/18/77

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.O. 18

NO. 18

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AP

1. BARRY SCHWEID FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "REPORTS OF CIA PAYMENTS TO KING HUSSEIN CLOUDED AN  
APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL EFFORT BY SECRETARY...VANCE TO MOVE  
EGYPT AND ISRAEL CLOSER TO A COMPROMISE ON THE PALESTINIAN  
ISSUE TODAY."

OTHER POINTS:

--- VANCE SAID HE'S EAGER TO GET HUSSEIN'S VIEWS ON MIDEAST  
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SETTLEMENT, BRUSHED ASIDE QUESTIONS ON CIA CONNECTION "WITH  
A TERSE 'NO QUESTIONS.'"

--- EARLIER, DURING IN-FLIGHT NEWS CONFERENCE, VANCE  
DISCUSSED SADAT'S "'CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION'" TO ESTABLISH  
"'AN OFFICIAL AND DECLARED LINK'" BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND  
JORDAN PRIOR TO GENEVA CONFERENCE.

--VANCE SAID EGYPT AND ISRAEL ARE BOTH READY TO GO TO  
GENEVA WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS IF PROCEDURAL ISSUES CAN  
BE RESOLVED.

---JORDAN RADIO SAID WOODWARD KNOWN FOR HIS "ZIONIST ATTITUDES" AND DENOUNCED ARTICLE AS CONTAINING LIES. JORDANIAN SPOKESMAN SAID JORDAN HAS WELCOMED U.S. ASSISTANCE BUT "HAS NOT ENGAGED IN IMPROPER PRACTICES OR PURSUED PERSONAL INTERESTS."

---ISRAELIS TOLD VANCE NON-PLO REPRESENTATIVES OF PALESTINIANS WOULD BE WELCOME AT GENEVA AS PART OF JORDANIAN DELEGATION; SADAT CALLED FOR LINKAGE BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT "EVEN BEFORE A RESUMED GENEVA CONFERENCE."

## 2. UPI

JIM ANDERSON FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE CONFERRED WITH KING HUSSEIN FRIDAY AMID CHARGES OF CIA PAYOFFS TO THE HASHEMITE KING IN RETURN FOR ALLOWING A SPY NETWORK TO OPERATE IN JORDAN. JORDAN DENIED THE KING RECEIVED CIA MONEY."

OTHER POINTS:

--- JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT CALLED REPORT "A COMBINATION OF FABRICATION AND DISTORTION."  
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--- VANCE DECLINED COMMENT BUT OTHER OFFICIALS TRAVELLING WITH HIM AGREED THE REVELATIONS WOULD UNDERMINE HUSSEIN'S KEY ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE.

--- HIGH-LEVEL PLO DELEGATION PRECEDED VANCE IN CAIRO AND WAS EXPECTED IN AMMAN AFTER THE SECRETARY LEAVES.

--- "VANCE SEEMED BUOYED BY HIS TALKS WITH SADAT AND TOLD REPORTERS... 'THERE IS A NARROWING OF THE DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON SOME OF THE KEY DIFFERENCES'. BUT HE ADDED, 'BIG DIFFERENCES REMAIN.'"

--- SADAT SUGGESTED CREATING PALESTINIAN STATE "IN SOME FORM OF CONFEDERATION" WITH JORDAN".

--- "VANCE SAID SADAT'S PROPOSAL 'BEGINS TO MOVE TOWARDS THE THE SUGGESTIONS' MADE BY THE ISRAELIS WHEN HE VISITED TEL AVIV..."

--- IN BEIRUT, VANCE MET SARKIS AND ANNOUNCED \$50 MILLION AID PACKAGE FOR LEBANON.

## 3. REUTERS

ROY GUTMAN FROM AMMAN

LEAD: "U.S. SECSTATE CYRUS VANCE ARRIVED HERE TODAY TO SOUND OUT KING HUSSEIN'S VIEWS ON A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SOLUTION, INCLUDING AN EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL FOR A JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN CONFEDERATION."

OTHER POINTS:

--- VANCE WAS "CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT SADAT PROPOSAL, SAYING IT "NARROWED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ARAB AND UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI VIEWS ON THE KEY PROCEDURAL ISSUE IN THE WAY OF HOLDING A CONFERENCE."

--- STORY QUOTES VANCE ON SADAT'S "CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION" WHICH BEGINS TO MOVE TOWARD ISRAELI VIEW, BUT NOTES THERE ARE STILL "DEEP SUBSTANTIAL AND PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS" BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

--- VANCE, CONFRONTED WITH UNEXPECTED REPORT OF CIA PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN, DECLINED TO COMMENT.

--- JORDANIAN SPOKESMAN SAYS REPORT INCORRECT AND WAS AIMED AT "OBSTRUCTING THE PEACE TALKS."

--- VANCE STOPPED FOR A FEW HOURS IN BEIRUT, ANNOUNCED \$50 MILLION AID PROGRAM, AND CALLED ON OTHER NATIONS TO HELP GET LEBANON BACK ON ITS FEET.

--- HE LUNCHEDED WITH SARKIS AND LEFT BEIRUT A HALF HOUR BEHIND SCHEDULE, ACCORDING TO AN AIDE, "BECAUSE IT WAS A RELAXED MIDDLE EAST ATMOSPHERE AND WE COULDN'T RUSH."

--- IN-FLIGHT NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER LEAVING CAIRO WAS FIRST ON THIS TRIP.

4. NBC

DAVID BRINKLEY

--DURING ALL THIS TALK IN WASHINGTON ABOUT MONEY GOING TO JORDAN, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE ARRIVED TODAY IN JORDAN, THE COINCIDENCE OF THE TWO FACTS IS CURIOUS BUT NO ONE WAS EXPLAINING IT. VANCE HIMSELF REFUSED ANY COMMENT AT ALL. WHAT THE JORDANIANS SAID WAS THAT WHATEVER MONEY

THERE WAS, THE KING HIMSELF GOT NONE OF IT. RICHARD UNCLASSIFIED

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VALERIANI IS TRAVELLING WITH VANCE AND HERE'S HIS REPORT FROM AMMAN, JORDAN.

---VALERIANI: 'SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE HUSSEIN STORY AS HE ARRIVED IN AMMAN. BUT HIS AIDES INSISTED IT WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE SECRETARY'S TALKS WITH THE KING ABOUT THE FUTURE COURSE OF MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY. SOON AFTER VANCE'S ARRIVAL, THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT PUT OUT A STATEMENT WHICH SKIRTED THE QUESTION OF THE PAYOFFS THEMSELVES AND WHICH DENIED THERE WAS ANYTHING IMPROPER.'

---JORDANIAN SPOKESMAN:

'THE JORDANIAN LEADERSHIP HAS NOT ENGAGED IN IMPROPER PRACTICES OR PURSUED PERSONAL INTERESTS. THE TIMING OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE INDICATES THAT A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO DAMAGE THE IMAGE OF THE JORDANIAN LEADERSHIP ON THE EVE OF THE VISIT OF THE UNITED STATES' SECRETARY OF STATE, AND TO DENY SUBSTANCE TO MR. VANCE'S PEACEMAKING EFFORT.'

---VALERIANI:

'TONIGHT, WHEN VANCE HAD DINNER WITH THE KING, PICTURES WERE PERMITTED BUT NO REPORTERS WERE ALLOWED IN. SO THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS. AMERICAN SPECIALISTS IN ARAB AFFAIRS SAY THAT WHILE HUSSEIN WILL BE EMBARRASSED BY THE REVELATIONS, THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS WILL NOT BE SERIOUS. THEY POINT OUT THAT HUSSEIN'S ENEMIES, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS, HAVE LONG ACCUSED HIM OF BEING ON THE AMERICAN PAYROLL, SO THAT EVEN THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT MAY BE DISCOUNTED. ONE AMERICAN OFFICIAL EVEN PREDICTED THAT A MONTH FROM NOW, THE WHOLE AFFAIR MAY BE FORGOTTEN.'

5. ABC

HARRY REASONER:

---"IT MUST HAVE BEEN A TOUGH DAY FOR (YRUS VANCE. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY OF STATE WAS JUST LEAVING EGYPT, HEADING FOR LEBANON AND JORDAN WHEN THE STORY BROKE ABOUT KING HUSSEIN AND THE CIA. IF EVER A SITUATION CALLED FOR DIPLOMACY, IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE FIRST MOMENTS VANCE SPENT WITH THE KING. BARRIE DUNSMORE IS ON THE VANCE PLANE, AND HE SENT US THIS REPORT:

BARRIE DUNSMORE:

---"EVEN BEFORE HE ARRIVED IN BEIRUT, SECRETARY VANCE WAS CAUGHT UP IN THE HUSSEIN STORY. ON THE FLIGHT FROM CAIRO, HE TOLD CORRESPONDENTS CURTLY THAT HE HAD NO COMMENT

ON THE REPORT. ONCE IN AMMAN, VANCE MADE NO DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE POST STORY, BUT IT WAS VERY MUCH IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE WORDS HE CHOSE.'

VANCE:

'JORDAN AND THE UNITED STATES ARE OLD FRIENDS, AND I HOPE THAT MY VISIT TO AMMAN WILL UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT FRIENDSHIP AND THE ROLE THAT HIS MAJESTY PLAYS IN RESOLVING THE BITTERNESS AND CONFLICT WHICH HAVE EXISTED IN THE MIDDLE EAST.'

---DUNSMORE:

'SHORTLY AFTER VANCE'S ARRIVAL, A JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CALLED THE POST STORY A FABRICATION AND DISTORTION. WHILE HE DIDN'T SPECIFICALLY DENY THAT MONEY HAD CHANGED HANDS, HE DID DENY THAT THE KING HAD DONE ANYTHING IMPROPER. IT CAN BE ASSUMED, OF COURSE, THAT THE SUBJECT CAME UP IN THE SECRETARY'S TALKS TONIGHT WITH THE KING. U.S. OFFICIALS FEEL THAT THE TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURES IS EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE. ONLY YESTERDAY, PRESIDENT SADAT PROPOSED THAT THE PALESTINIANS AND JORDAN UNCLASSIFIED

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BE OFFICIALLY LINKED BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN IN GENEVA. VANCE THOUGHT THAT HELPED TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN ARAB AND ISRAELI POSITIONS ON A FUTURE MIDEAST PEACE. HOWEVER, TODAY'S REPORT WILL GIVE HARD-LINE PALASTINIANS A REASON TO STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY CONFEDERATION WITH KING HUSSEIN."

6. CBS

WALTER CRONKITE:

---"THE DISCLOSURE OF CIA PAYMENTS TO JORDAN CAME AT A PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSING TIME FOR SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE--JUST BEFORE THE START OF TALKS WITH KING HUSSEIN IN AMMAN, THE FOURTH STOP OF VANCE'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR. BERNARD KALB REPORTS:

---KALB:

'THE OUTRAGE THAT THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT FELT ABOUT THE NEWS REPORT WAS NOT YET MADE PUBLIC WHEN VANCE ARRIVED FROM LEBANON. THE REPORT ITSELF WAS ORIGINALLY HUSHED UP HERE. VANCE MADE A GENERAL DIPLOMATIC STATEMENT: HE WOULD TAKE NO QUESTIONS. BUT DURING THE FLIGHT, HE WAS ASKED BY NEWSMEN ABOUT THE REPORT. VANCE REPLIED HE HAD NO COMMENT. IT WAS TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT THE ISSUE CAME UP DURING THE SECRETARY'S MEETING TONIGHT WITH KING HUSSEIN.

AN AIDE OF VANCE'S SAID THE SECRETARY DID NOT INTEND TO ALLOW THE STORY TO COMPLICATE HIS TALKS WITH THE KING ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK OF A MIDDLE EAST PEACE. THE SECRETARY SOUNDED OUT THE KING ON EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT'S PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE CONFEDERATED WITH JORDAN. THE VANCE-HUSSEIN SESSION TOOK PLACE ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY APPEARED IN THE PRESS ROOM TO DISTRIBUTE A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT DENOUNCING THE NEWS REPORT. A REQUEST FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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HIM TO READ THE STATEMENT SENT HIM TO THE TELEPHONE TO GET OFFICIAL CLEARANCE. IT WAS GRANTED.'

---JORDANIAN SPOKESMAN:

(THERE FOLLOWS FOOTAGE OF THE JORDANIAN SPOKESMAN GIVING STATEMENT QUOTED ABOVE UNDER "NBC")

---KALB:

'ONE IMMEDIATE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE CONTROVERSY WILL AFFECT THE SEARCH FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE, AND THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THE PALESTINIAN RADICALS, WHO DETEST KING HUSSEIN, MAY SEIZE ON THIS DEVELOPMENT IN A BID TO FRUSTRATE ANY SOLUTION THAT WOULD LINK A PALESTINIAN STATE TO JORDAN.'

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## Message Attributes

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